

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon which, when executed by a first computer in a group of peer computers, performs steps for coordinated execution of distributed tasks, the steps comprising:

receiving from at least one server, by the first computer in the group of peer computers, each of the peer computers in the group of peer computers having at least one processing unit and one input device and one output device distinct from the at least one processing unit, a set of execution instructions for the peer computers, the execution instructions including a sequence of tasks to be performed and an automatically, without user action, determined assignment of the tasks to the peer computers;

forwarding, by the first computer in the group of peer computers to the other peer computers in the group, execution instruction information derived from the execution instructions, the execution instruction information that is forwarded to each respective peer computer in the group informing the respective peer computer of a relationship dependency between one or more tasks assigned to the respective peer computer and one or more tasks assigned to the other peer computers in the group of peer computers;

executing, by the first computer, a portion of the sequence of tasks assigned thereto in connection with execution of other of the sequence of tasks assigned to the other peer computers in the group; and

receiving, by the first computer from each of the other peer computers, and transmitting, by the first computer to each of the other peer computers, peer-to-peer communication messages containing task execution status information to synchronize and coordinate the execution of the sequence of tasks, the task execution status information comprising an indication that one task upon which another task depends has completed.

2. (Original) A computer-readable medium as in claim 1, wherein the sequence of tasks to be performed constitutes a test run of interactive computer operations.

3. (Original) A computer-readable medium as in claim 1, wherein the execution instructions include a job that executes a predefined set of tasks.

4. (Original) A computer-readable medium as in claim 1, wherein the execution instructions are provided to the first computer in an input XML document.

5. (Original) A computer-readable medium as in claim 4, having further computer-executable instructions for the first computer to process the input XML document to derive the execution instruction information for sending to the other peer computers.

6. (Original) A computer-readable medium as in claim 5, wherein the first computer formats the execution instruction information as a second XML document for sending to the other peer computers.

7. (Previously presented) A computer-readable medium as in claim 1, having further computer executable instructions stored thereon for the first computer to perform the step of reporting results of execution of tasks to a database.

8. (Currently amended) A method of performing coordinated execution of distributed tasks by a group of peer computers, comprising:

receiving from at least one server, by a first computer in the group of peer computers, each of the peer computers in the group of peer computers having at least one processing unit and one input device and one output device distinct from the at least one processing unit, a set of execution instructions for the peer computers, the execution instructions including a sequence of tasks to be performed and an automatically, without user action, determined assignment of the tasks to the peer computers;

forwarding, by the first computer in the group of peer computers to the other peer computers in the group, execution instruction information derived from the execution instructions, the execution instruction information that is forwarded to each respective peer computer in the group

informing the respective peer computer of a ~~relationship~~ dependency between one or more tasks assigned to the respective peer computer and one or more tasks assigned to the other peer computers in the group of peer computers;

executing, by the first computer, a portion of the sequence of tasks assigned thereto in connection with execution of other of the sequence of tasks assigned to the other peer computers in the group; and

receiving, by the first computer from each of the other peer computers, and transmitting, by the first computer to each of the other peer computers, peer-to-peer communication messages containing task execution status information to synchronize and coordinate the execution of the sequence of tasks, the task execution status information comprising an indication that one task upon which another task depends has completed.

9. (Original) A method as in claim 8, wherein the sequence of tasks to be performed constitutes a test run of interactive computer operations.

10. (Original) A method as in claim 8, wherein the execution instructions include a job that executes a predefined set of tasks.

11. (Original) A method as in claim 8, wherein the execution instructions are provided to the first computer in an input XML document.

12. (Original) A method as in claim 11, further including the step of processing the input XML document by the first computer to derive the execution instruction information for sending to the other peer computers.

13. (Original) A method as in claim 12, wherein the step of processing formats the execution instruction information as a second XML document for sending to the other peer computers.

14. (Original) A method as in claim 8, further including the step of reporting results of execution of tasks by the peer computers to a database.

15. (Currently amended) A computer system for performing automated execution of distributed tasks, comprising;

a plurality of peer computers connected by a network, each of the plurality of peer computers having:

at least one processing unit;

at least one input device distinct from the at least one processing unit;

at least one output device distinct from the at least one processing unit; and

an execution agent, the execution agent of each peer computer being programmed

for:

receiving a set of execution instructions for the peer computers, the execution instructions including a sequence of tasks to be performed and an automatically,

without user action, determined assignment of the tasks to the peer computers;

forwarding to the execution agents on the other peer computers execution instruction information derived from the execution instructions, the execution instruction information forwarded to each respective peer computer informing the respective peer computer of a relationship dependency between one or more tasks assigned to the respective peer computer and one or more tasks assigned to another of the plurality of peer computers;

executing a portion of the sequence of tasks in connection with execution of other of the sequence of tasks assigned to the other peer computers; and

receiving from each of the other peer computers and transmitting to each of the other peer computers peer-to-peer communication messages containing task execution status information to synchronize and coordinate the execution of the sequence of tasks, the task execution status information comprising an indication that one task upon which another task depends has completed.

16. (Original) A computer system as in claim 15, wherein the sequence of tasks to be performed constitutes a test run of interactive computer operations.
17. (Previously presented) A computer system as in claim 15, wherein the execution instructions include a job that executes a predefined set of tasks.
18. (Original) A computer system as in claim 15, wherein the execution instructions are provided in an input XML document.
19. (Original) A computer system as in claim 18, wherein the execution agent of said each peer computer is further programmed to process the input XML document to derive the execution instruction information for sending to the other peer computers.
20. (Original) A computer system as in claim 19, wherein the execution agent of said each peer computer is programmed to format the execution instruction information as a second XML document.
21. (Original) A computer system as in claim 15, furthering including a test result database, and wherein the execution agent of said each peer computer is programmed for reporting results of execution of tasks to the test result database.